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SAMUEL SLATER

FATHER OF THE COTTON INDUSTRY IN AMERICA



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CITY OF PAWTUCKET, R. I.

September 1st, 1910.

DEAR SIR—It may interest you to know that the City of Pawtucket, R. I., is A HIVE OF DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIES, with a colony of over 25,000 men, women and youths, busy as bees extracting every week nearly a quarter of a million dollars as wages. Pawtucket's reputation as a city of diversified industries is world-wide. It is not the largest city in the world, neither is it the richest, but there is no city on earth of its size which produces such a variety of manufactured articles.

Within a radius of three miles of Main street square, the centre of Pawtucket, which includes a part of Central Falls, Cumberland, Lincoln, Seekonk, and Phillipsdale there are factories employing over 40,000 people.

Pawtucket's history as an industrial community is unique and unparalleled in the annals of civic development in America. It became a manufacturing centre over 250 years ago when Joseph Jenks, Jr., located here a few years after the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth. He began the manufacture of iron implements for household and agricultural uses. The Pawtucket falls, with virgin forests surrounding it, from which charcoal could be made, and the bogs nearby with a fair grade of iron ore, served as a magnet to attract him. For years he prospered and then others started in the business, some making iron work for the ships that were built here. The Schooner Tyre which was constructed on the banks of the Pawtucket

river sailed around the world in 1790, a remarkable feat in those days. David Wilkinson, a youthful mechanical genius of Pawtucket assisted by Elijah Ormsbee another youth, in 1792, built a twelve ton steamboat in which they made a trip of three and a half miles from Pawtucket to Providence. This was at least ten years before Robert Fulton operated a steamboat on the Hudson river, assisted by Daniel French, a Connecticut Yankee, who incidentally came here previously and was given permission to examine and make drafts of one of the first boats known to be operated by steam in America.

President Madison at his second inauguration as Chief Executive of United States on March 4th, 1813, wore a suit of woolen cloth made in a Pawtucket factory. It was the first time a President or high public official had worn a suit of American made cloth, and the news was sent broadcast. When President Monroe was inaugurated for his first term in 1817, "following the example of his predecessor, the President wore for the occasion a suit of American made cloth from a Pawtucket factory." In 1820, when Hon. N. R. Knight took his seat in the U. S. Senate, he wore a vest of material made by the Pawtucket Worsted Company, which was the first specimen of American made worsted shown in Washington and attracted considerable attention. President Adams in 1826 bought a beautiful lace dress in Pawtucket which took first prize at the R. I. State Fair. Pawtucket's industries were in the limelight in those days and have since attracted the attention of textile and mechanical men all over the world.

During this era a fine class of mechanics developed here, and when Samuel Slater, "the father of cotton manufacture in America," came to Pawtucket in 1790, with the help of the David Wilkinson and Sylvanus Brown, he constructed the first successful cotton spinning machinery made in America. The

Wilkinson, Brown, and Jenks families were remarkable mechanical workers in those days and the foundations they laid for their descendants are still being built upon. Their fame as skilled artisans travelled across the sea and early in the next century many of the best iron workers of England came to Pawtucket and settled. John Thorpe, a Pawtucket mechanic, invented the power loom in 1814, and Asa Arnold invented a differential motion for speeders and a machine for separating wool. Stephen Jenks made small arms for the Continental troops during the Revolution and in 1811 he took a contract from the Government to make 10,000 muskets, a big task at that time. The Wilkinsons were also makers of heavy presses used in New Bedford and Nantucket for pressing out sperm oil. In 1794 Oziel Wilkinson made the machinery used in the construction of a canal near the City of Boston, the patterns and castings being made at Pawtucket. He also made the first wind-gudgeons used in this country. In 1797, David Wilkinson invented a gauge and sliding lathe, one of the most valuable mechanical contrivances ever produced. The only money he received from it at that time was ten dollars for the use of the patterns, but fifty years later the United States Congress deemed it so meritorious that it voted him a bonus of \$10,000.

From that time to the present, expert machine builders and textile operatives have made Pawtucket a "Mecca." There are big iron and brass foundries here, some of the biggest machine shops in the country making textile machinery for all parts of the world, big cotton mills turning out miles of cloth, immense bleacheries and dye houses scattered about several sections of the city and here and there large and small factories turning out all kinds of specialties. Among the largest concerns employing from 700 to 3,000 workers, are the Royal Weaving Company with the largest weave shed in the world,

making the best grade of linings, the Lorraine Manufacturing Company making the finest cotton and worsted fabrics, the Coats Thread Company turning out a large part of the world's consumption of thread, the Union Wadding Company making cotton batting sold all over the world, the Howard & Bullough Machine Company, one of the largest manufacturers of cotton machinery in the world, the Narragansett Machine Company making gymnasium apparatus for use in all parts of the civilized world, Babcock color presses and machinery, the Hope Webbing Company with the largest narrow fabric plant in America, the Phillips Insulated Wire Company with the most modern copper wire rolling mill, the Goff Mills, where tons of mohair braid, plush and linings are made, the W. H. Haskell Company and the Pawtucket Manufacturing Company which make large quantities of bolts and nuts and the machinery for producing the same, and last but not least of the big concerns, the Potter & Johnston Machine Company, makers of automatic chucking and turning machinery, shapers and cotton machinery. The first named machines are considered the greatest factor in reducing the cost of production of component parts of automobiles. Nearly every day shipments of their machines are made to foreign countries including China, Japan, Russia, and the countries of Europe. The company did a half million dollar business in France last year. The shop which covers about ten acres of land is one of the most modern in the world.

In addition to those already mentioned, which are leaders of their kind in the United States, there are about fifty more manufacturing establishments in the city that give employment to from 100 to 1,500 workers. Among them are the Solway Textile and Dyeing Company, makers of the Manhattan shirtings, the Easton & Burnham Machine Company, who furnish an improved type of spindle for the mills of New

England and the South; the Fales & Jenks Company, makers of spinning and twisting machinery, rotary pumps and fire hydrants; the United States Finishing Company (Dunnell Branch), dyeing, bleaching and print works; the E. Jenckes Manufacturing Company, and the Hemphill Company, both concerns making knitting machines which are shipped all over the world, the former concern also makes wire goods; the George H. Fuller Company manufactures immense quantities of jeweler's findings; the R. Bliss Manufacturing Company, makers of toys and woodenware; the Lebanon Mill Company, makers of knitted fabrics; the Pawtucket Foundry Company, who make drinking fountains for many of the big cities of America and also several articles used in the building trades; the J. M. Carpenter Tap and Die Company, whose product is known the world over; the Lumb Knitting Company and the Sakonnet Knitting Company, manufacturers of women's underwear; the Smith Webbing Company, the Blackstone Webbing Company, the Shannock Narrow Fabric Company, the Rhode Island Cardboard Company; the National Coated Paper Company, the Hope Paper Company, the J. S. Linton Paper Company, the Pawtucket Glazed Paper Company, the Linton Brothers Paper Company, the American Yarn Company, the Dexter Yarn Company, the Greene & Daniels Manufacturing Company and the Littlefield Manufacturing Company, yarn makers; the J. J. Kenyon Manufacturing Company, makers of braids tapes and laces; the Salisbury Company, makers of labels and shipping tags; the J. W. Little Company, mill label and sample card printers; the Adam Sutcliffe Company, printers and lithographers; the Jenckes Knitting Company; the Mackenzie-Walton Seamless Wire and Tubing Company; the Metallic Shell and Tube Company, seamless tubing; the Co-Operative Seamless Wire Company;

the United Brush Company; the United Wire Supply Company; the Hand Brewery; R. D. Mason Company, dyers and bleachers; Blodgett & Orswell Company, makers of glazed yarns and spool cotton; Jenckes Spinning Company; Tamarack Company, silk textiles; the Burgess Mills; the Slater Mills, cotton cloth; the Dempsey Bleachery; the Harrison Yarn and Dyeing Company; Pawtucket Evening Times, 23,000 circulation; Chronicle Publishing Co., weekly; Le Jean Baptiste Publishing Company, French semi-weekly; the Pawtucket Linotyping Company, composition for printers, and the New England Automobile Journal Publishing Company, whose publication is one of the pioneer magazines devoted to the automobile trade.

After enumerating the two score and ten big concerns above mentioned one would wonder if there was room for more, yet there is between sixty and seventy other manufacturing establishments in the City of Pawtucket, employing from 25 to 100 workers. Among the number are the following: The French Hair Cloth Company, making cloth of horse hair imported from South America; the Atwood-Crawford Company, makers of all kinds of spools and fancy wood turners; the Eastern Advertising Company, manufacturers of Art Calenders and embossed printing; Collyer Insulated Wire Company, makers of covered wires and cables; J. S. White Company, machinery castings; the Chase Brush Company; the Thayer Brush Company; the Pawtucket Hosiery Company; the Pawtucket Braided Fish Line Company; the Pawtucket Jewelry Company; the Pawtucket Warp Company; the Moncrief Manufacturing Company, makers of the Moncrief rug rack, which is shipped all over United States; the Sellew Machine Company, makers of milling and shaping machinery; the Pawtucket Tape Company; the Pawtucket Knife and Saw Company; the Vienna Braid and Tape Company; the R. I.



LOOKING WEST FROM PAWTUCKET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

Crucible Steel Company; the Pawtucket Brush Company; the Providence Braid Company, (Pawtucket branch); Narragansett Narrow Fabric Company; the American Vending Machine Company, which has automatic toilet paper, emergency towels and automatic ticket selling machines in nearly all of the railroad stations in America; Columbia Braider Company; the Crown Hair Cloth Company; the Imperial Silk Mills; the J. S. & W. E. Meehan Company, makers of silk glorias; the William Hill Company, manufacturers of baby carriage robes, shawls and towels; Excelsior Loom Reed Works; Blackstone Reed and Harness Company, wire goods; Blackstone Machine Company; Glencairn Manufacturing Company, makers of shoe strings; Fred J. Bancroft, manufacturer of tennis racquets, polo sticks and wooden toys; George W. Payne Company, builders of spoolers, winders and quillers; Charles H. Luther Company, makers of cloth stretchers and thread dressers; J. O. Draper Soap Works; the Henry F. Jenks Company manufacturers of small hardware and metal novelties; Collins Brothers, cotton machinery; Eagle Dye Works; Nonpareil Thread Company; Fred J. Halliday, Jr., machinery pattern maker; Cole Brothers, makers of automatic spinning frame banding machines; Pawtucket Paper Box Company; J. N. Polsey Company, packing cases and boxes; Reliable Manufacturing Company, threads and yarns; Shaker Thread Company; Collyer Machine Company, electrical and mechanical engineers; the Pawtucket Dyeing and Bleaching Company; the Berry Spring Bleachery; American Cotton Mills Company; the W. B. Cobb Company, jewelry manufacturers; Roberts Manufacturing Company, jewelry; Ohler Jewelry Company; Killam Clock Company, makers of "Banjo" and Mission clocks which are sold all over United States; Consolidated Car Fender Company, which makes street car fenders, universally used in America;

McIntyre Chemical Company; Boston Braiding Company; Jenkinson Brass Foundry; McKenna Company, brass founders; New England Machine and Electrical Company; Mullen Brothers, electrical engineers; Gay Leather Company; Gardner Broom Factory; Lyons Delany Coffee and Spice Mills; Dawson Corset Lace Company; L. B. Darling Fertilizer Company; John C. Culbert Company, metal refiners; Bucklin Belting Company; J. T. Cottrell Company, mill work contractors; Frank Tingley Company, office and store finishers; Suter Loom Reed Company; A. E. Tenney, mill machinists; Ullrich Brush Company; Briggs Cotton and Paper Waste Company; United Wire Supply Company; United Brush Company; Union Cooperage Company, and Berry Spring Lithia Water Company; R. I. Electrical Works, and R. I. Machinery Company. There are cigar factories, gas fixture manufacturers, mineral water companies, tin and sheet iron shops, wood turning factories and various other manufacturing concerns turning out products used locally. The hum of machinery in Pawtucket is as familiar as the ticking of the ticker in Wall street.

Pawtucket is constantly having new enterprises locate within its borders. During the past year three lace making concerns have begun operations, one the Caderas & Ozanne Company coming from Calais, France; the Regina Lace Company and the Seekonk Lace Company. The latter started with local capital. The machinery for the last two concerns was imported from Nottingham, England. The Pawtucket Lace Finishing Company was also started during the past year. These concerns alone will give employment to nearly a thousand men and women who receive big wages. Pawtucket is now known as the "lace making centre of America." The biggest lace making plant in the country today is the American Textile Company, which began operations in this city ten years ago,

and has grown rapidly. At the present time an addition is being constructed which will double the concern's capacity. The Seekonk Lace Company also started an addition, the work having begun before the paint was dry on their original mill. The lace making machines have been imported from England and France in the past, but it is expected that within another year some of the big shops of Pawtucket will be turning out machines of the latest design. That Pawtucket mechanical talent is capable of making as good machinery as either England or France is freely admitted by those men who have come here to start plants. Another lace manufacturing company is now being organized.

Among the many thriving industries is the Flexible Veneer Company, which manufactures a paper veneer, imitating the most expensive wood veneers. It is used for many purposes, but largely for cabinet work and panel work in house finish. The cover of this booklet is a sample of one of the various wood patterns imitated. One of the chief reasons why new concerns locate here is the abundance of workers familiar with the construction and operation of machinery.

Since its incorporation as a city in 1886, Pawtucket has had a strong, healthy, steady, growth. Owing to its diversity of industries, hard times and serious business depression are almost unknown here. When the curtailment in cotton production is in force, the machine shops are running, some of them night and day, turning out machinery for all kinds of work, especially for the automobile trade. For a city of over 51,000 inhabitants and with surrounding towns of 75,000 more, who do their trading here, it is surprising to note so few unemployed about the streets. When the shop whistles blow at noon and night, the visitor is always impressed with the thousands of well dressed workers flowing out of the gates of the mills

and shops. In the four banks of the city there is over \$12,000,-000 of their savings, meaning over \$200 for every man, woman and child in the city, and in addition a very large number of the people own their own homes. The working people of Pawtucket have an unexcelled means of obtaining a livelihood and receive more per capita, than workers in such cities as Lawrence, Lowell, Fall River, and New Bedford. They have advantages for their educational, spiritual and physical welfare, second to none in United States.

With its score of modern brick eight and twelve room school houses, both public and parochial, caring for over 10,000 children, evening schools of manual training and drawing for grown persons, Kinyon's Business College, a High School, a Boys' Club, a well patronized Public Library, a twelve page daily, a semi-weekly (French) and a weekly newspaper, its beautiful churches, Catholic and Protestant, and its Y. M. C. A., Pawtucket's educational and spiritual advantages are unsurpassed. It has 300 acres of the finest park lands, to be found in New England, playgrounds scattered in all sections of the city, with the most approved forms of apparatus, a score of fields for baseball, football, bowling, cricket, golf and other athletic sports and a trotting track. Two rivers with half a hundred power boats, many canoes and racing shells and several theatres provide ample means for recreation. There are a large number of societies affiliated with the National and International organizations, including the Masons, Foresters, Odd Fellows, Knights of Columbus, and others. The Pawtucket Business Men's Association with nearly 400 members and the Pawtucket Retail Merchants Association with a membership of nearly 150 of the representative tradesmen of the city, both active bodies in the development of the municipality, and the To Kalon Club, which has recently built a club



LOOKING NORTH FROM PAWTUCKET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

house costing over \$50,000, show what a prominent place social intercourse takes in the life of Pawtucket people.

The civic improvements are kept apace of the needs of the people, money being continually spent for the construction of new streets, sewers, schools, fire stations and other permanent improvements. The streets are kept clean, well lighted and policed. The municipal water works is second to none in the United States for quality of water, and good service, for domestic uses, mill supply and fire purposes. There are over 180 miles of pipe, with an average pressure of 100 pounds to the square inch. A new 15,000,000 gallon pumping engine has been recently installed and there are three other pumps of 12,000,000 gallons. The Diamond Hill reservoir covers two hundred and seventy acres and holds nearly a billion and a half gallons of water; by raising the dam ten feet, it would hold another billion. The Happy Hollow pond near the station holds 72,000,000 gallons, and the Stump Hill reservoir, 301 feet above tide-water, flows into the mains, giving plenty of pressure. There are over 90 miles of improved streets and 60 miles of sewers. The fire department is one of the best equipped in the country and the fire loss is exceedingly small. The area of the city is about nine square miles and nearly square in shape, with eleven main streets running to the business district like the spokes of a wheel, making a most convenient layout. The trolley system is an excellent one, with cars from the suburban towns running through all the principal streets and with good transfer privileges. A new hospital has been recently opened that will equal any in New England. Gas mains and electric wires are in nearly every street and the people use both for cooking and lighting. A central steam heating plant heats nearly all the public buildings, store and office buildings, churches and residences in the centre of the

city. The long distance station of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company is located in Darlington, a suburb of Pawtucket, and direct connections are made so that people in Pawtucket are talking with persons in Jacksonville, Fla., or Omaha, Neb., nearly 2,500 miles away, when the occasion requires. There are over 2,000 telephones in the stores, shops, and homes of Pawtucket, which show that modern conveniences are used in this hustling city. There are also two telegraph offices, Western Union and Postal Telegraph.

There are several advantages which commend the City of Pawtucket to the manufacturer beside the abundance of most efficient workers. There are two big freight depots, one on the east side of the city and the other on the west side. The main line of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, between Boston and New York runs through the centre of the city, and there are two branch lines. A good tidewater harbor, which is the head of navigation in Rhode Island, comes well up into the city. It is now being developed extensively by the Federal Government and the State. The extension of the Grand Trunk Railroad from the Canadian north-west into Rhode Island is laid out to run through the west and south ends of Pawtucket to tidewater, opening up new sites for factories, and will give excellent shipping facilities to the western country by rail, and the south by water. The Blackstone river, that wonderful stream which develops more horse-power than any other river in the world of equal watershed, runs through and reaches tidewater at Pawtucket. The Pawtucket Electric Company with three stations making current by coal and water falls is well prepared to furnish electricity to manufacturing concerns. Over 7,000 horse-power is now distributed to some of the large and many of the small factories. There is still room for a few more establishments, and some good manu-

facturing sites are available along the railroads and the river fronts. Pawtucket business men are always ready to invest in new enterprises with good prospects and otherwise materially help new comers.

All communications addressed to the mayor will receive attention.

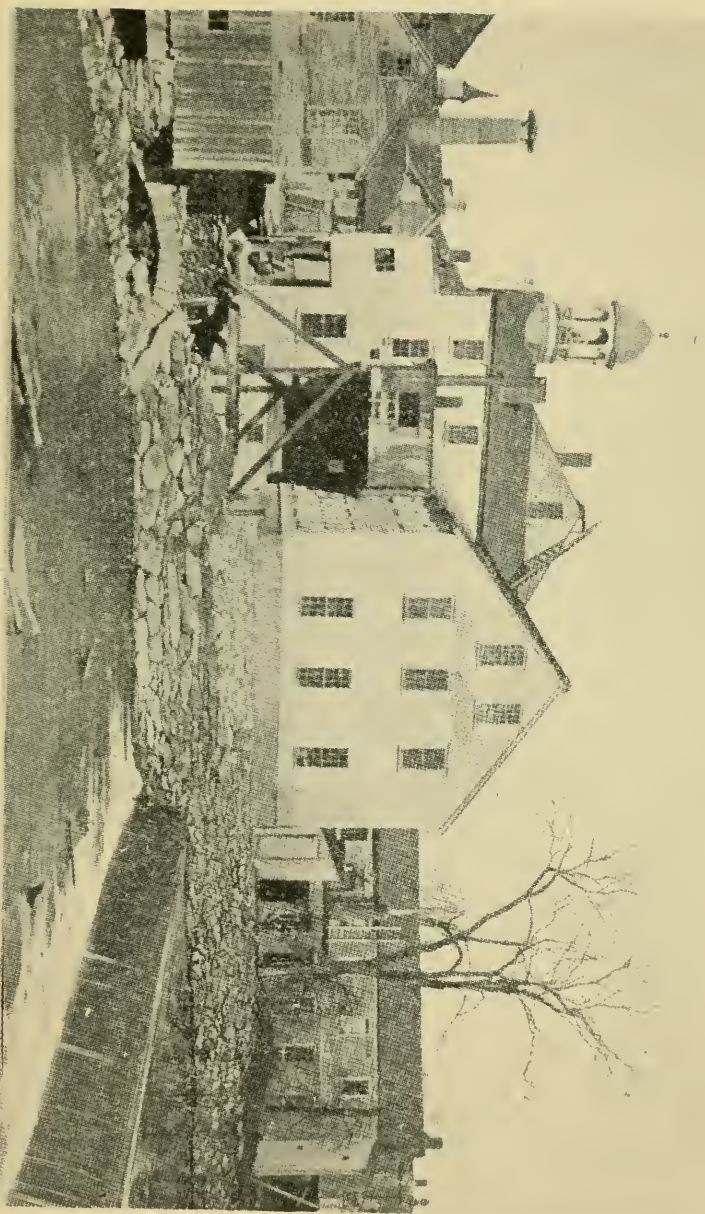
Respectfully yours,

ROBERT A. KENYON,

Mayor.

OLD SLATER MILL, PAWTUCKET, R. I.

THE FIRST COTTON MILL IN AMERICA ERECTED ON THE BANKS OF THE BLACK-



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